



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The October 2002 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 5.2 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate is up one-tenth of a percentage point from the September 2002 rate of 5.1 percent, and up eight-tenths of a percentage point from the October 2001 rate of 4.4 percent. The number of individuals employed decreased from September to October by 1,900 individuals, while an increase of 100 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 12,800 in September to 12,900 in October. The decrease in the number employed and the increase in the number unemployed created a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 1,800 individuals from September to October 2002. Year-over-year, there was an increase of 1,100 unemployed individuals and a decrease of 21,600 employed individuals, which led to a decrease of 20,500 in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the October 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: October 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	179,860	8,273	4.6	171,587
Adams	1,646	231	14.0	1,415
Boise	2,935	175	6.0	2,760
Canyon	69,318	4,650	6.7	64,667
Elmore	9,752	757	7.8	8,995
Gem	6,324	642	10.1	5,683
Owyhee	4,466	191	4.3	4,275
Payette	10,176	973	9.6	9,203
Valley	5,501	411	7.5	5,090
Washington	4,614	474	10.3	4,139
Statewide	687,098	37,650	5.5	649,448

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties**

	Oct 2002*	Sept 2002	Oct 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	249,200	251,000	269,700	-0.7	-7.6
Unemployment	12,900	12,800	11,800	0.8	9.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	5.1	4.4		
Total Employment	236,300	238,200	257,900	-0.8	-8.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	248,400	249,000	267,800	-0.2	-7.2
Unemployment	11,800	11,600	10,700	1.7	10.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.6	4.0		
Total Employment	236,600	237,400	257,100	-0.3	-8.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	228,900	229,900	232,500	-0.4	-1.5
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	49,600	50,200	52,800	-1.2	-6.1
Construction & Mining	15,600	15,800	17,000	-1.3	-8.2
Manufacturing	34,000	34,400	35,800	-1.2	-5.0
Durable Goods	25,600	26,000	27,400	-1.5	-6.6
Lumber & Wood Products	3,100	3,100	3,200	0.0	-3.1
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	6,800	7,100	7,600	-4.2	-10.5
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,200	11,300	12,000	-0.9	-6.7
Transportation Equipment	1,600	1,700	1,700	-5.9	-5.9
Other Durable Goods	1,700	1,600	1,700	6.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	8,400	8,400	8,400	0.0	0.0
Food & Kindred Products	5,700	5,700	5,700	0.0	0.0
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	800	-86.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	179,300	179,700	179,700	-0.2	-0.2
Trans., Comm., & Public Utilities	12,100	12,300	12,100	-1.6	0.0
Transportation	6,800	6,900	6,900	-1.4	-1.4
Comm. & Elec. Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	5,300	5,400	5,200	-1.9	1.9
Trade	55,700	56,500	56,000	-1.4	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	12,500	12,600	12,600	-0.8	-0.8
Durable Goods	7,700	7,700	7,700	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4,800	4,900	4,900	-2.0	-2.0
Retail Trade	43,200	43,900	43,400	-1.6	-0.5
General Merchandise Stores	5,900	5,800	5,700	1.7	3.5
Foods Stores	7,300	7,300	7,600	0.0	-3.9
Eating & Drinking Places	15,300	15,700	15,200	-2.5	0.7
Other Retail Trade	14,700	15,100	14,900	-2.6	-1.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,600	11,700	11,700	-0.9	-0.9
Services	63,300	63,600	63,000	-0.5	0.5
Business Services	13,800	13,600	15,000	1.5	-8.0
Health Services	19,300	19,200	18,600	0.5	3.8
Hospitals	9,300	9,200	8,600	1.1	8.1
Eng, Acct., Res, Mgmt., & Related	5,500	5,600	5,200	-1.8	5.8
Other Services	24,700	25,200	24,200	-2.0	2.1
Government	36,600	35,600	36,900	2.8	-0.8
Federal Government	5,400	5,400	5,300	0.0	1.9
State Government	13,400	13,300	14,100	0.8	-5.0
Education	4,600	4,300	4,900	7.0	-6.1
Administration	8,800	9,000	9,200	-2.2	-4.3
Local Government	17,800	16,900	17,500	5.3	1.7
Education	11,700	10,700	11,500	9.3	1.7
Administration	6,100	6,200	6,000	-1.6	1.7

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Approximately 1,000 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were lost in the Boise City MSA between September and October 2002, while year-over-year there was a decrease of 3,600 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a loss of 600 jobs between September and October 2002 with job losses occurring in *Construction & Mining* (200), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (300), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (100), and *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100), while job gains occurred over the same time period in *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100). The year-over-year data is similar as *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,200 jobs, however, there were no job gains. Job losses occurred in *Construction & Mining* (1,400), *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (800), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipments & Component Manufacturing* (800), and *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100). The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries lost 400 jobs between September and October 2002. Job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (100), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (400), *Other Retail Trade* (400), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (100), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* (100), *Other Services* (500), *State Government Administration* (200), and *Local Government Administration* (100) outpaced job increases in *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Business Services* (200), *Health Services*, primarily *Hospitals* (100), *State Government Education* (300), and *Local Government Education* (1,000) to create a net decrease of jobs in the *Service-Producing Industry* over the month. Most of the job increases occurred in *State* and *Local Government Education*, which is expected during this month as local school districts reopen after summer break for the beginning of fall semester. Year-over-year, there was a decrease of 400 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, although there were job gains in *Communication & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (200), *Eating & Drinking Places* (100), *Health Services* (700) primarily *Hospitals* (700), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (300), *Other Services* (500), *Federal Government* (100), *Local Government Education* (200), and *Local Government Administration* (100), which were outpaced by job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Nondur-*

able Goods Wholesale Trade (100), *Food Stores* (300), *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (100), *Business Services* (1,200), *State Government Education* (300) and *State Government Administration* (400).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- DirecTV in Boise announced in mid-November that it would add 200 people to customer service positions at its call center in west Boise. The new jobs start at \$9.00 per hour.
- Washington Group International (WGI) sold its Electro-Mechanical Division of its Westinghouse Government Service Co. to Curtiss-Wright for nearly \$75 million. The Electro-Mechanical Division had been for sale for nearly a year.
- Boise Airport and military officials announced a plan to create an international air cargo hub for military and civilian uses. The plan, which could add up to 4,000 jobs at the Boise Airport, requires \$80 million in federal monies and permission from the Pentagon to station up to eight C-17 cargo planes in Boise. Congress would make the ultimate decision on the project and, if approved, it could be operational within the next decade.
- United Water Idaho announced plans in early November to build a \$17 million water treatment plant in Southeast Boise. This new plant is intended to accommodate the number of existing and future homes in the area, which is expected to double in the next two decades. Groundbreaking for the project was held in November at the 11-acre site off Columbia Road in Boise. The initial phase of the water treatment facility will be completed in 2004.
- Construction will start in Spring 2003 on a retail and office building complex located at the northeast corner of Eagle Road and Pine Avenue in Meridian. Potentially, the complex could include three office buildings and four smaller retail buildings.
- Plexus in Nampa, formerly the MCMS plant, announced in late October that it would keep its Nampa facility open. Plexus' Nampa facility provides contract manufacturing and employs between 300 and 400 people.
- After Albertson College of Idaho (ACI) announced this fall that the school was more than \$4.5 million in debt, it laid off 20 employees in an attempt to trim its budget. ACI also announced a decrease in tuition to increase student enrollment.

The debt is a result of a poor economy that affected the college's endowment fund, slower enrollment growth, and fewer donations. The board of directors has emphasized that students would not be affected by the cuts. A major fundraising campaign is underway to help with the budget deficit.

- The Caldwell Chamber of Commerce and Caldwell Economic Development Council recently combined locations. Both entities moved to 704 Blaine Street, the former City Hall in Caldwell. The move was an expansion for both the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council. The new location will allow greater visibility for both organizations.
- Walgreens recently opened a new retail outlet at 1012 East Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell. The 13,650-square-foot facility opened earlier than expected. The store features groceries and household items as well as a drive-through pharmacy and one-hour photo services. Walgreens currently employs 15 people at the Caldwell store.
- The Caldwell Family Resource Center opened in mid-November in Caldwell. The center includes a family literacy center, a classroom for adult education, an early childhood development area, and an office space for community partners. The center employs staff that will provide literacy training, adult basic education, GED, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to parents, grandparents, and foster parents.
- A new road and park are planned for the Canyon County Fairgrounds. The road, to be named Griffith's Parkway, will connect to Stock Trail Road and will provide more parking for the summer fair and festival. The new Griffith's Park will include baseball diamonds and walking paths.
- Impact Training Center, which offers computer and employment skills training and senior citizen classes, opened its facility on 4301 Garritty Boulevard in Nampa in early November.
- Hampton Inn & Suites Hotel broke ground on its newest four-story \$7.8 million facility in late October. The facility will include 101 rooms and will be built near the Idaho Center in north Nampa. The project is scheduled for completion by summer 2003, in time for the Snake River Stampede.
- Boise State University (BSU) held an open house in early November for its Sports Center, which sits next to the Idaho Center in North Nampa.

The Sports Center opened in September and is home to the Boise State indoor track-and-field team. The banked 200-meter track is the only site in the West qualified to hold indoor track meets sanctioned by the U.S. Track and Field Association. The center may also host equine activities.

- Terry Reilly Health Services broke ground in Melba in mid-November for a new health clinic that will open in spring 2003. The 3,500-square-foot clinic will replace the current facility in Melba. The clinic will offer dental services in addition to the medical services provided by the previous clinic. The clinic will service about 10,000 people annually.
- SCP Global Technology announced in early November that it laid off more people from its Boise manufacturing facility. The company declined to state how many were laid off.
- Investors agreed to purchase Meridian's creamery, located at the corner of Broadway Avenue and Meridian Road. The investors hope to turn the building into a retail and office complex. Plans for the site may include an Italian restaurant, an ice cream parlor, a farmer's market, a wine shop, and a daycare center.
- *The following is a list of business news in the Boise City MSA.* Just Strays Animal Foundation Feline Adoption Center opened in Boise, Panaderia & Pasteleria plans to open a second Idaho bakery in the Shiloh Centre in Boise, Budget Office Furnishings announced plans to relocate to the former Skateworld building in Boise, Fred A. Morton & Co. moved to a new office in the Boise Research Center in west Boise, Farberware opened a store in the Boise Factory Outlet Mall, Maggie Moo's announced plans to open its first Idaho ice cream shop in west Boise in December, Baja Fresh is opening two eateries (Boise and Meridian) in December, Mountain West Bank opened a lending center in Meridian, The Porterhouse reopened its meat store in Eagle, Idaho Central Credit Union opened a branch in Nampa, Farmers and Merchants State Bank opened a new branch in Nampa, Simple Seasons gift shop opened in Nampa, Graphic Solutions opened in Nampa, Country Care opened the Meadows (an assisted living center) in Nampa, Chapala will open a new restaurant in Nampa, and the Tux Store opened in its new location in the Edwards Theater Complex in Nampa.

Adams County

- Clearwater Research announced that the company is leaving Council. Company officials cited economic realities as a reason for the closure. In order to improve efficiency, the company decided to eliminate the Council satellite office and consolidate in Boise. Company officials promised employees "generous severance packages" that include a bonus for employees who started working there before December 1, 2001, and who continued working for the company through December 15, 2002. All employees were offered positions at the Boise facility.

Gem County

- Gem County and hospital officials began looking at a renovation/expansion project for Walter Knox Memorial Hospital. The project would cost nearly \$6 million and would complete the last two phases of the hospital's renovations that started about five years ago. These phases of the project could add about 4,500-square feet to the existing facility. The \$6 million for the project would come from the hospital's regular revenue.
- Albertsons Inc. announced plans in early November to open a new store in Emmett on the northeast corner of Johns Avenue and Highway 16 by summer 2003. The new store will be nearly twice as large as the current Albertsons located on Washington Avenue. Once the new store is open, the old store will be closed. Construction on the project started in November and will feature larger departments with a wider selection of products. Approximately 100 people are currently employed at the Emmett Albertsons; additional employees will be hired when the new store opens.

Payette County

- The Payette County Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) moved to its new office in mid-November on the southeast corner of the Payette Courthouse property. The new office is in a renovated garage/storage facility. The renovation was paid for through reimbursement funds that the county received from the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI). The new office is much larger than the DMV's previous facility.
- DJ Foods in New Plymouth sold its building to Internet Truck Stop who will turn the building into office space. DJ Foods closed in late October but will reopen at the former Al's Market location. Another store, EZ Mart, is scheduled to open next to the U.S. Post Office in December.

- Two new businesses recently opened in Payette County—L&L Enterprises and 4B's Storage & Stuff. L&L Enterprises is located at 222 Southwest Third Avenue in Fruitland and 4B's Storage & Stuff is located at 100 South Iowa Avenue in Fruitland.

Valley County

- The McCall Ice Rink and Event Center will open by July 4, 2003, which is later than the Memorial Day opening originally cited. The center will feature a year-round refrigerated ice rink built to National Hockey League specifications, which will be the centerpiece of the complex. The center will also include bleachers to seat 600 people, two locker rooms, a concession area, and an eating plaza that will accommodate an additional 40 people. Adjacent to the rink, a 50-car two-level parking garage will be built to help ease parking along the already-busy Lake Street.
- Mountain Monet opened at 310 East Lake Street in McCall. Mountain Monet provides customers the chance to paint their own pottery.

Washington County

- Rolling Hills Golf Course in Weiser officially closed for the season on October 31, 2002. The Weiser Golf Association Board of Directors announced in late August that a bankruptcy filing was inevitable. The board is attempting to sell the golf course to someone willing to assume the debt and keep the course open to the public, although there have been no offers so far.
- The Weiser Rehabilitation and Care Center recently added two new employees to its staff. Adam Mendenhall, a physical therapist, will manage the Rehabilitation Department as well as provide physical therapy to patients. Kristi Belnap was hired as a speech language pathologist, and will provide outpatient therapy to area hospitals and schools.

Jennifer Pirtle, Regional Labor Economist
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 364-7785, ext. 3599
E-mail: jpirtle@jobservice.us